

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 157294  
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN:WMATTHEWS:MCH

APPROVED BY ARA:TATODMAN

P:PHABIB

S/S-O RPERITO

-----080097 070345Z /14

O 070317Z JUL 77 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL BELIZE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 157294

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, GT, BH, UK

SUBJECT: GUATEMALA-BELIZE DISPUTE

REFS: (A) GUATEMALA 4191 (B) STATE 156404

1. IF YOU BELIEVE USEFUL YOU MAY DELIVER FOLLOWING ORAL MESSAGE TO OBIOLS IN RESPONSE TO HIS REQUEST YESTERDAY. BEGIN MESSAGE: WE ARE CONTINUING AT HIGH LEVEL OUR EFFORTS WITH BRITISH THAT THEY EXERCISE UTMOST RESTRAINT AND AVOID ANY ACTION THAT MIGHT BE CONSIDERED PROVOCATIVE. AS PART OF THAT EFFORT, WE RELAYED YOUR STRONG CONCERN OVER FRIGATE TO BRITISH EVENING JULY 5 AND AGAIN MORNING JULY 6. BRITISH ASSURED US THAT ANY MILITARY MOVES WERE PURELY DEFENSIVE IN NATURE, BUT MADE NO REPEAT NO COMMITMENT RE FRIGATE OR REINFORCEMENT.

SECRET

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PAGE 02 STATE 157294

2. SECRETARY MET WITH FONMIN MOLINA 15:30 THIS AFTERNOON AND WITH BRITISH MINISTER OF STATE ROWLANDS AT 17:00 TO DISCUSS MATTER FURTHER. SECRETARY TOLD MOLINA THAT AFTER HE SAW EMBASSY CABLE THIS MORNING EXPRESSING YOUR CONCERN, HE TALKED WITH DAVID OWEN, UK FOREIGN MINISTER. SECRETARY RELAYED GUATEMALAN CONCERN, WHICH WE SHARED, ABOUT RISING

TENSIONS. SECRETARY ADDED TO MOLINA THAT HE UNDERSTANDS THERE MAY BE A FRIGATE IN AREA. FYI: IT WAS OBVIOUS

THAT GUATEMALANS HAVE CORRECTLY IDENTIFIED THE FRIGATE, WHICH IS IN AREA. END FYI.

3. SECRETARY EMPHASIZED TO MOLINA NEED FOR COMPROMISE ON BOTH SIDES AND HOPE THAT GUATEMALANS WILL CONTINUE TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT DESPITE BRITISH MOVES WHICH THEY ASSURE US ARE IN REACTION TO GENUINE SERIOUS CONCERN RE GUATEMALAN INTENTIONS RESULTING FROM BELLIGERANT DECLARATIONS BY GOG MILITARY OFFICIALS AND REPORTS THEY HAVE RECEIVED OF MILITARY MOVEMENTS. BRITISH REITERATED TO SECRETARY THAT THEY HAVE NO INTENTION OF MOVING AT THE PRESENT TIME TOWARD A UNILATERAL GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO BELIZE, NOR WOULD THEY ATTEMPT TO TAKE GUATEMALA BY SURPRISE IN THAT REGARD. THEY ALSO INDICATED THEIR DESIRE TO ACTIVELY PURSUE NEGOTIATIONS. END MESSAGE.

4. SEPTTEL FOLLOWS ON SECRETARY'S CONVERSATIONS WITH MOLINA AND ROWLANDS. VANCE

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICIES, DISPUTES, INDEPENDENCE, MOBILIZATION, ARBITRATOR, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS, NAVAL SHIPS, NEGOTIATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1977STATE157294  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ORIGIN SS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
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**Reference:** 77 GUATEMALA 4191, 77 STATE 156404  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GUATEMALA-BELIZE DISPUTE  
**TAGS:** PBOR, PDEV, MPOL, GT, BH, UK, US  
**To:** GUATEMALA  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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